that took place in public and private sector mines during the period 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 is as under:

Year	Sector	No. of fatal accidents	No. of serious acci-dents	No. of persons killed	No. of persons seriously injured
1998-99	Public	147	691	164	745
	Private	29	72	37	76
	Total	176	763	201	821
1999-2000	Public	139	653	159	716
	Private	52	63	63	78
	Total	191	716	222	794
2000-2001	Public	102	486	151	517
	Private	44	47	48	53
	Total	146	533	199	570

(b) The compensation to family members of the deceased and the injured of mine workers during the period 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 is given as per provisions of the Workman's Compensation Act.

Death from occupational diseases

2948. SHRI CO. POULOSE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the numbers of mines in public and private sector which are facing slow death from occupational diseases like asbestosis, silicosis, by sinosis, pneumoconiosis and other dust related diseases;

(b) the safety/preventive measures taken to safeguard the workers; and

(c) the average earnings of each worker in the mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) As per the information furnished by the Mines Managements under statutory requirements to the Directorate General of Mines Safety, Dhanbad, there is no mine in public and private sector which is facing slow death from occupational diseases like asbestosis, silicosis, lysinosis, pneumoconiosis and other dust related diseases.

(b) Measures to safeguard workers against occupational diseases have been prescribed in the Mines Act, 1952 and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder.

(c) The weekly earnings of worker in coal mines is Rs. 156<y- and that of the metal mine, worker is Rs. 931/- only.

Amendment to the Mines Act

2949. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether recent deaths in the mines of Dhanbad is an eye opener to bring more improvements in the fields of mining through amendments in the Mines Act;

(b) whether Government are also contemplating to bring some key changes in the Act;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) The Mines Act, 1952 and the rules and regulations framed thereunder provides for safety to the workers working in the Mines. Review of these legislations is a continuous process and amendments in the laws are made from time to time depending upon the result of such review keeping in view the changes in technology and the safety of workers working in mines.